

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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MEIJI GAKUIN CELEBRATES

Meiji Gakuin High School and University recently completed an extended celebration of its eightieth anniversary. The school traces its formal history to the founding, in 1877, of a theological school in Tokyo under the cooperative sponsorship of Reformed and Presbyterian missionaries from Scotland and the United States.

A highlight of the commemorative observance was a worship service on November 1 in which representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government participated. Faculty and staff members, veterans of many years of service to the school, received special recognition. Another important event was an address on November 19 by Dr. Yanaihara, President of Tokyo University, on the theme "Religion and Learning". Dr. Yanaihara is a noted Christian leader of the Mukyokai (Non-church Movement).

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The festivities included a number of concerts presented by the ABC Symphony Orchestra of Tokyo, Meiji Gakuin's own choir, and choirs from International Christian University, St. Paul's University, and other colleges, churches, and seminaries in the Tokyo area.

On the lighter side, there was a student rally with a bonfire, skits, stunts, and folk dancing. There were athletic contests, special exhibits, dramatic presentations, and lectures. The college students had a skating party, while faculty and staff of the college division enjoyed a banquet at the Prince Hotel in Shinagawa.

An English-language history entitled "Meiji Gakuin--Eighty Years of Concern" was prepared by the Reverend Gordon J. Van Wyk, Reformed Church missionary and professor of English and Church History in the college division.

ST. ANDREW'S BROTHERHOOD MEETS

About 150 Japanese and foreign laymen of the Anglican Communion gathered for a service of thanksgiving and rededication at All Saints' Chapel, St. Paul's University, Tokyo, on the evening of St. Andrew's Day, November 30. The occasion marked the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew (Episcopal laymen's organization) in Japan. Immediately following the service, the group enjoyed an informal reunion dinner in the dining hall of St. Paul's University.

The impressive service of Evening Prayer included a thank offering, which was entrusted to the Right Reverend Shinzo Nakamura, Bishop of Tohoku, for the rebuilding of a diocesan hall and student center in that area. The Reverend Nobumoto Takuma, National Vice-Chaplain of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in Japan, preached the sermon. The assembled laymen renewed their pledge, according to the Rule of their Order, to "pray daily for the spread of Christ's Kingdom among men, especially young men, and to make at least one earnest effort each week to lead some man nearer to Christ through His Church".

Presiding over the reunion dinner in the refectory of the University was Dr. Junzo Sasaki, President of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in Japan. The speakers included Dr. Yoshitaro Negishi, Professor Tokuji Ogawa (both of St. Paul's University), and Dr. Paul Rusch.

BIBLE READING SUNDAY OBSERVED

The second Sunday in Advent, December 8, was observed in many churches across Japan as World Bible Reading Sunday. Special offerings to help with the distribution of the Bible in Braille were received in behalf of the Japan Bible Society.

The Bible Society reported that 78,549 copies of the complete Bible were distributed during the past year, 372,146 copies of the New Testament, and 1,341,658 copies of smaller portions of Scripture. This made a total of 1,792,353, which was about 82,000 less than in the preceeding year. Some 25,000 copies were sent to Japanese residing in Taiwan, and elsewhere overseas.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS & THE UNITED CHURCH

The United Church's Council of Cooperation met on November 25 at Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, and discussed the relationship of Christian Schools to the United Church of Christ in Japan.

This Council, which has about forty members, relates the Inter-board Committee for Christian Work in Japan (representing eight United States and Canadian denominations) to Christian schools and churches in this country.

The thirty-three cooperating schools and colleges have been founded and maintained by overseas mission boards. Long before the founding of the Japanese United Church, the schools were well established. These schools continue to be served by funds and personnel from overseas, however their ties with the United Church are somewhat tenuous.

The problem is, how can these schools more effectively serve the Japanese Church and be a part of that Church. A complicating factor is that other local denominations in addition to the United Church have a stake in some of these schools, for example certain of the Lutheran groups and the Church of Christ in Japan (Presbyterian).

